

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9931

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR IN

SUBJECT: PROGRESS OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: NEW DELHI 8559

1. THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON HAD COVERED ALL INDIA BY JUNE 30. DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 2, IT PICKED UP MOMENTUM BUT IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK UP TO JULY 9, SLACKENED SUBSTANTIALLY IN NORTHWEST INDIA EXCEPT JAMMU AND KASHMIR. RAINFALL IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY WAS 50 PERCENT TO 99 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL. HOWEVER, THE MONSOON WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL IN THE NORTHEAST REGION, EXCEPTING ORISSA, SOUTHERN WEST BENGAL, ASSAM AND ADJOINING AREAS WHERE IT WAS BELOW NORMAL. MOST OF CENTRAL INDIA RECEIVED NORMAL RAINFALL. ALL OF THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KERALA AND SOUTHERN KARNATAKA, RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 9.

CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1-JULY 9, 1975 WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL IN MOST PARTS OF INDIA. HOWEVER, IN ASSAM AND ADJOINING STATES IN THE EXTREME NORTHEAST, SOUTHERN WEST BENGAL, SOUTH BIHAR, ORISSA, HIMACHAL PRADESH, AND JAMMU AND KASHMIR, IT WAS 20 PERCENT TO 42 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL.

2. OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE MONSOON SO FAR CONTINUES TO BE BETTER THAN LAST YEAR, RAISING HOPES FOR A GOOD KHARIF SEASON AND INCREASED WATER SUPPLY FOR POWER GENERATION. DURING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PAST 2 OR 3 WEEKS A NUMBER OF STATES HAVE RELAXED OR

TOTALLY REMOVED CURBS ON CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICAL POWER WHICH HAD BEEN IN FORCE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. THIS SHOULD INCREASE POWER SUPPLY TO TUBEWELLS FOR IRRIGATION.

3. AS IS USUAL AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, PARTS OF ASSAM, EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH AND BIHAR HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING MEDIUM TO HEAVY RIVERINE FLOODS. SOME LOSS OF LIFE AS WELL AS DAMAGE TO CROPS HAS BEEN REPORTED.

4. AREAS ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 76 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION (USING AS A BASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71) HAVE RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL DURING JUNE 1-JULY 9 THIS YEAR. DURING THE COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1974, AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 24 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, MUCH STILL DEPENDS ON THE MONSOON'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.SAXBE

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